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5 August 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
 Deputy Director (Intelligence)
 Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Personnel

1. In confirmation of our discussion at the Deputy Directors' Meeting on 3 August 1955, it is my desire that each of you examine carefully the need for additional personnel which your components have requested in their Fiscal Year 1956 Operating Budgets and in their estimates for Fiscal Year 1957.

2. Our personnel ceiling to date is a self-imposed one. Nevertheless, the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress are keenly interested in this matter and I do not feel that we should expand appreciably without consultation with them. Our "on-duty" strength today approaches very closely the strength which they have sanctioned informally.

3. As was pointed out at the Deputies' Meeting, the various components have requested an increase over our present strength totaling approximately [redacted] (military) and [redacted] are certain high priority projects that we discussed which must have additional personnel; these will be authorized. However, before I would approve any such general increase, and certainly one of the magnitude requested, I would have to be convinced that it is both necessary and practical.

4. I believe that the Congress would be most reluctant to sanction an appreciable expansion, particularly in our departmental strength. Our buildings are already overcrowded and adequate relief is not in sight until our new building is constructed. Even then, according to present estimates, our authorization will permit us to construct a building adequate to accommodate an increased "on-duty" departmental strength of only about [redacted]. Experience also indicates that our recruitment and entrance-on-duty processing facilities could not, without a

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substantially stepped-up program, effect a net gain of more than half of the number requested by 30 June 1956.

5. It is my desire to keep the Agency as small as possible consistent with the successful accomplishment of our mission. It behooves us all to find ways and means to do more without greatly expanding our numbers. We must resist any suggestions that we assume duties which are not clearly our function or which we have not been assigned as a service of common concern. We must also pay greater attention to the establishment of priorities and through constant analysis and evaluation eliminate marginal projects and programs. We should explore thoroughly all possibilities of contracting for our work to avoid increasing our numbers where we can within the bounds of good security.

6. It is essential that your reappraisal of these estimates be completed as expeditiously as possible and that your new estimates be submitted to the Comptroller not later than the close of business on 9 August 1955.

/s/

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director of Central Intelligence

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